

Social Service Human Relations Board

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, March 26, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Nielsen, Soglin, James, Biggs, and Dailey. Absent was Member Villareal. Staff: Franz, Wright

President Wasko welcomed new member Ardella Dailey to the Board

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting on January 22, 2009 were tabled until the April meeting. Edits and additions were requested by President Wasko, and members Biggs and James.

3-A. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS President

Terri Wright, Community Development Program Manager presented City's Draft CDBG Action Plan for FY 2009-10. Presentation included discussion of the Board's role as it pertains to the CDBG programs.

1. Assess and provide input regarding the community's social service and human relations needs, (a process you all completed in January);
2. Review staff CDBG public service funding recommendations to determine if the recommended activities are consistent with the priority needs identified and that funding levels are reasonable given the amount of funding available; and
3. Report to City Council on the recommended allocations.

Wright outlined next steps of CDBG funding cycle, including the public meeting on May 5 where the City Council will consider the full CDBG funding recommendations.

Wright explained how the CDBG Public Service funding cap worked, and outlined how funding allocations were determined using percentages since the funding allocations have not been released by HUD yet. Wright also explained how program services offered by the Food Bank and ECHO will be expanded to cover some of the services previously offered by the Red Cross. Because this is a two-year, the determination of which agencies funded for FY 2009-10 was made last year, subject to funding availability and grantees meeting program goals.

Following the presentation comments, Wasko opened Public Comment.

Speaker: Paul Russell, Executive Director, Alameda Food Bank spoke in favor of the recommendations. He acknowledged that, after food, housing is the greatest need. The Food Bank programs are now assisting the ECHO RAP by acting as pick-up and collection sites for rental assistance lottery applications. With the cut back in Alameda Red Cross programs, he has seen an increase in Alamedans coming in requesting assistance with services other than food (i.e. D.V counseling / referrals) With 2 paid and 100 volunteer staff, the Food Bank continues to expand their capacity to refer, but does not want to become a multi-service center.

Liz Varela from BFWC was present but did not speak.

Following the public comment, Board members asked about the performance of the organization that received monitoring findings last year. Wright reiterated that all programs are meeting program goals Based on 2nd Quarter reports, and that staff continues to work with the organization to effectively utilize program tracking systems implemented as a result of the monitoring. Due to staffing transitions, a full monitoring of the organization has not been done yet. The Board closed the discussion by asking for ways to get additional information on how programs are meeting community need. Wright advised that staff would evaluate the additional ways to keep the board updated, possibly through presentations or annual reports.

After discussion and conferring with staff, it was agreed that a draft of the letter would be provided by staff for President Wasko's edits and approval, and that the letter would include focus on safety-net services, collaboration, and transfer of the Red Cross' food and rental assistance programs to the Food Bank and ECHO Housing.

A motion and second (James / Soglin) to accept staff recommendation for public service funding, with a focus on safety-net services. Letter to be approved by President Wasko, who will also represent board at City Council meeting on May 5. Unanimous.

3-B. NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS

Board elections are held at the first meeting after July 1 of each year when the Board is fully constituted. Member Biggs nominated President Wasko for re-election as President (second Soglin) and Wasko then nominated Member Villareal for **Vice-President (second James)** Member Wasko graciously accepted the nomination, and explained that member Villareal had **agreed to serve as Vice-President**. There were no other nominations. The election of officers will take place at the April meeting.

3-C. WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORTS

President Wasko announced that Items 3-C and 3-D would be combined, since they both regarding the board's Workgroups.

3-D. REORGANIZATION OF WORKGROUPS

Wasko - The Workgroup process has been an important function of the board for many years. While Assessment and Awareness and Alamedans Together Against Hate (ATAH) are both standing work groups, some of our work groups have found it appropriate to spin off and become stand alone organizations. The Childcare work group spun off as Smart Healthy Babies, a 501c3, which later became the AFS New Parent Support program, and our Sister City workgroup is also in the process of becoming a separate 501c3. The Family Services workgroup has morphed a number of times, and continues to champion existing efforts in the community. SSHRB prides itself on being a working board as documented by the considerable number of volunteer hours documented each year.

Open for Discussion: Discussion included the importance of collaboration, including ongoing relationships and partnering with the ACCYF, Youth Commission, and AUSD, Colleges, and the Community. Member Biggs expressed willingness to lead a new, Resource-Sharing Workgroup to help agencies and organizations maximize resources. (see attached form with assignments.)

Staff noted that President Wasko and members Nielsen, Villareal, and Dailey attended the ACCYF Retreat in February, and that a SSHRB member sits on each of the ACCYF task/workgroups. (Governance, Mission Statement, Goals & Objectives, Data Collection). This representation makes for a stronger, more productive relationship between the board and the ACCYF.

A motion and second (Wasko / Nielsen) to establish a Resource-Sharing Workgroup. Unanimous

Member James committed to attending Youth Commission meetings and acting as a SSHRB's liaison to the Commission.

A motion and second (Dailey / Biggs) that President Wasko, as Chair of the Family Services Workgroup, be appointed as SSHRB representative to the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth, and their Families. Unanimous

3-E WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM AUSD SUPERINTENDENT KIRSTEN VITAL REQUESTING SSHRB / ATAH CO-SPONSORING A COMMUNITY MEETING WITH AUSD REGARDING THE PROPOSED ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM ADDRESSING SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Board members reviewed letter from Superintendent Vital that requested SSHRB and ATAH co-sponsor a community meeting to combine the efforts between AUSD and the City of Alameda to provide clarity for our community regarding the proposed curriculum addressing sexual orientation and gender identity.

Member Soglin explained that, at this time, the School district has no plans to host another community meeting (Public Forum). He then explained that CARE (Community Alliance for Resources in Education) was planning to hold a strategy meeting, but since no Action Item was on the Agenda, SSHRB would not be able to discuss co-sponsoring that meeting. The purpose of the meeting would be to develop a strategy to respond to those who are in opposition to the adoption of the curriculum.

Terri: AUSD must initiate Community Forum. Working in partnership with their goal. AUSD must be the driver.

Staff explained that the agenda item was specific to an activity in partnership with AUSD and that co-sponsoring a meeting that was not in partnership with AUSD would not be consistent with the item on the agenda.

Member Biggs stated that this issue divided the community and that our role should be to help “diffuse divisiveness”

Motion and second (Nielsen / Biggs) that the Board (ATAH) respond to the request to co-sponsor a community meeting regarding the proposed elementary curriculum addressing sexual orientation and gender identity, should AUSD hold one, to build education and awareness, so that we can help diffuse divisiveness, educate people to “Learn to Listen to the Other Side”, and to show compassion and tolerance in our community. Unanimous

4. BOARD / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Member Nielsen reported for the Dental Workgroup that plans are moving forward with the proposed clinic at the College of Alameda and that on May 5th the City Council will consider CDBG gap funding (\$67,000) for dental equipment and construction of the site

Member Biggs had spoken with former Police Chief Burny Matthews regarding **four** Oakland Police Officers killed in the line of duty last Saturday. The Oakland Police Officer's Association is taking donations. Police officers in Alameda are already dealing with a number of issues, and this incident has further damaged whatever morale is left and they are really feeling demoralized. The service for the fallen Oakland officers will be attended by officers from across the country.

Member Biggs has just returned from Nepal and distributed gifts to all.

President Wasko spoke of the dilemma regarding the upcoming election. First 5 money benefits the APC and AFL. If you vote Yes, you lose money in the community. If you vote No, you lose money in the State and everyone suffers. Ballot information will be coming out shortly.

Member James let the board know that in April, Peralta Students will be voting to create the “**Easypass**” program to self assess a fee. 2,000 have used it so far. AC Transit has raised their prices, so this savings is important to students.

Staff reminded members to turn in their Form 700, and announced that May 7th is the annual Building Futures fundraiser. Staff will be meeting with Rev. Ouida Cooper regarding her plans for a Faith & Culture Fair.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

6. ADJOURNMENT: Motion and second to adjourn (James / Soglin) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Jim Franz

Secretary, Social Services Human Relations Board

JF:sb

G:\SSHRB\Packets\2009\JMarch09\MinutesReg
F: SSHRB\2009\Agendas Packets